

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 9 are pending in the application. Claims 1-7 and 9 are rejected. Claim 1 is amended. Claim 8 was cancelled previously. No new matter has been added. All rejections are respectfully traversed.

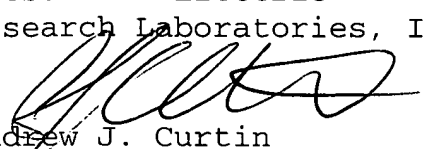
On June 4, 2004, the Examiner, Trang Tran, and the Applicants' representative, Andrew J. Curtin (Reg. 48,485), conducted a telephone interview regarding the invention. Claim 1 was discussed. The Applicants' representative submitted a proposed amendment to claim 1. On June 10, 2004, the Examiner indicated to the Applicant's representative that the proposed amendment to claim 1 would place the application in condition for allowance. The amendment to claim 1 herein reflects the proposed amendment. The Applicants' representative thanks the Examiner for her courtesy and cooperation in this matter.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed telephone number, in order to expedite resolution of any remaining issues and further to expedite passage of the application to issue, if any further comments, questions or suggestions arise in connection with the application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this

paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 50-0749 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully Submitted,
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